



Recreation Advisory Council

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2011

(NOTE: the regular meeting scheduled for 2/1/11 was postponed to the workshop alternate date on 2/17/11)

In Attendance: Scott Pepperman (Vice-Chair),
Jim Smith, Dick Norrie, Ed Rigg, Rhoda Ioeger, Ed Rigg, Nate Spade
Absent: Dave Stine (Chair), Jason Sanseverino, Theresa Eberly
Staff: Jeff Williams, Kristy Owens
Other: Carl Marrara

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Pepperman at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from February 17, 2011 were corrected and approved. on a motion from Scott, seconded by Theresa.

Liaison

Mr. Spade reported that the Hempt's Quarry went to the Planning Commission and is going ahead with a reduced acreage request.

Director/Assistant Director Report

OLD BUSINESS

- Stony Ridge Park Phase III – work should begin again in a couple of weeks.
- The lease agreement to farm part of Paul Walters Memorial Park was signed. The property will need to be staked off to define the specific acreage.
- Greenways grant – still in process.
- Kristy will email the volunteer assignments to RAC so members have the details
- Kristy will gather a file of emails for groups. Currently, 200 from online and 2 new for February.
- TreeVitalize grant program may be extended so there could be a July round if DCNR funds it. We should hear about our second grant request for Stony Ridge Park by the end of the month.
- PRPS conference March 20-23rd in Valley Forge. Staff will check email remotely and have their cell phones.
- Giant benches should be delivered Earth Day in April.
- PRPS membership forms and payment was sent in for all members.

- New Township building - Kristy and Jeff have tagged furniture left behind by the previous owner for the parks and recreation offices. Scott mentioned looking at surplus again. Staff will try to organize that with him.
- Truck #8 is having a remanufactured transmission put in. It's the second one. It has also been rebuilt twice before.

New Business

- Jeff presented a chart detailing expenses the Township has incurred for baseball including Phase III and work at Paul Walters Memorial Park. There has been concern expressed by a few people about the rates SSYBA is charging which include gift certificates for the child to sell. Some SSYBA representatives have apparently mentioned that rates were high because the Twp no longer supported baseball as it used to. This may be partly due to the elimination of per participant subsidy payments to youth sports groups by the Township in 2009. Jeff also provided a chart showing registration totals for the various youth sports associations. SSYBA is already at 191, close to last year's total.
- Staff mentioned again that parks and facilities draw outside groups and visitors to the Township and that this has an economic benefit for Twp businesses.
- Staff indicated that they are focused on developing more passive recreation opportunities at parks once Phase III at Stony Ridge Park is complete.
- Some new rentals for tournaments have been received. This could total close to \$2,000 in addition to the usual rentals.
- A discussion was held regarding dogs in parks. On a motion by Scott, seconded by Jim, RAC voted to recommend to the Board that dogs be allowed in Pleasant View and Willow Mill Parks on a permanent basis, ending the trial time. Jeff will take this to the Board for final approval. RAC did not recommend that other parks be opened to pets and no new pilot sites were suggested.
- Kristy provided an update on the Egg Hunt. Staff is looking at buying pre-filled eggs. RAC was asked to volunteer again. Scott suggested that other volunteers be recruited and getting a volunteer to spearhead the effort.
- Jeff gave an update on the seasonal hiring status.
- Initial review of the draft newsletter was tabled.
- Parks maintenance attended a workshop on turf at Rich Valley Golf Course. There is a new fertilizer product out that has no chemicals in it; totally organic and has a very long time release. Staff will try this at selected fields this spring.
- Willow Mill Park has had some vandalism. A car or truck drove in circles on the grass and caused deep ruts. A cable and post gate will be installed and locked at night by the police. Parks crew will repair the damage as soon as the ground dries out.
- There were no plan reviews. Jeff announced that a new section of Evergreen was presented in a preliminary sketch plan. 25 units would generate recreation fees if it is approved.
- January Monthly Report was sent electronically. There were no questions.
- Kristy described some of the new features given to her to update and upgrade the web site. There was a discussion on social marketing with substantial input from Carl. Staff has had a Facebook page for months now and needs a business page. Carl offered to assist with this if needed.
- Jeff mentioned two dead trees that should be replaced. However, the one on the current campus will remain since the offices are moving.

- On a motion by Rhoda, seconded by Ed, the revised inclement weather policy was adopted.

Other Business

- Dick brought up that someone who was involved with SSYBA years ago contacted Jeff and wanted to find out which field was dedicated to their father. The issue was tabled due to lack of information.

There was no further business.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm on a motion by Rhoda seconded by Carl.

NEXT RAC MEETING: Regular Meeting, Tuesday, April 5 – 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Kristy Owens and Jeff Williams

APPROVED: 4/5/2011